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FILE DESIGNATION

CONCURRENCES

9 JAN 1980

C-503/VP

8 Jan 80

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR WARNING, CIA

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for 17 January Meeting

1. (C) The DoD Worldwide Indication and Warning System membership has recognized the inadequacy of the present ORCON dissemination mechanism during crisis situations and has asked DIA to address possible solutions to this problem with the Warning Working Group. Accordingly, DIA recommends the following agenda item be added to the agenda for the 17 January meeting of the Working Group:

"Release of ORCON caveated materials to the DoD Worldwide I&W System"

2. (C) In order to provide background and, should you wish, opportunity for some discussion between the NIO/W and the CIA staff which controls the distribution of ORCON-caveated materials, I am providing you a personal copy of a background paper prepared for me on this subject. I would appreciate your limiting distribution of this background paper to essential personnel.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

SIGNED

1 Enclosure  
(C-0589/JSW-1) memo  
Subj: Agenda Item--  
Release of ORCON Caveated  
Materials to the DoD  
Worldwide I&W System

Acting Vice Director  
for Foreign Intelligence

DIA review completed.

VP Coord cy  
DR-r/f cy

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C-0589/JSW-1

Background Paper for Use by VP at Warning Working Group Meeting

SUBJECT: Agenda Item--Release of ORCON Caveated Materials to the DoD Worldwide I&W System (U)

1. (C) BACKGROUND: The DIA managed, 26 member, DoD Worldwide I&W System is assigned the principal mission of providing warning to commanders and decisionmakers. To fulfill that mission, the system membership must have access to timely warning information. The longer information is withheld from the system, the shorter time operators and planners will have to accomplish required anticipatory actions. ORCON caveated material is recognized by the system membership as a prime source of warning information. Presently, requests for regular release of ORCON materials must satisfy one of the following conditions:

a. (C) A DoD Crisis Action Team being activated and a corresponding Intelligence Task Force being formed.

b. (C) An increased readiness/planning order or execute order by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a specific command(s) to commence planning for, or committing, US assets to the scene of a crisis.

(C) However, during noncrisis periods, ORCON materials are not passed to the commands in anything other than a piecemeal haphazard manner. It is prior to the crisis that warning intelligence applies, and the need for all information, including ORCON caveated material, is as great or greater than during a crisis period. The DoD Worldwide I&W System membership has recognized the problem and has asked DIA to address possible solutions in its behalf.

2. (C) DISCUSSION: The DoD Worldwide I&W System employs alert procedures, termed "WATCHCONS," which are designed to anticipate crisis situations; these and other procedures are governed by the system management apparatus and supervised by DIA. The activation of an increased watch condition allows any I&W Center, group of centers, or all to assume an increased intelligence watch in anticipation of developing crisis. Inherent in the WATCHCON process is the increased flow of pertinent data to the center(s) concerned. Thus the WATCHCON alerting process provides both a justification and the means for the release of ORCON materials.

3. (U) CONCLUSION:

a. (C) The present ORCON release conditions do not fulfill the warning intelligence needs of the DoD Worldwide I&W System membership.

b. (C) The DoD I&W System has both the mechanism and the means to control the expanded release of ORCON data.

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WATCH CONDITIONS\*

WATCHCON

- 4 Normal vigilance
- 3 Alert collection assets; analyst consider collection redirection/augmentation; increase reporting; assess need to change WATCHCON; review indicator lists; review data base for gaps; alert I&W System and subordinates.
- 2 Redirect collection and intelligence system as required; augment watch/analytical assets/increase reporting; prepare for crisis team activation; activate crisis team if required; assess need to change WATCHCON; maintain surveillance of other areas of responsibility.
- 1 Redirect/augment collection; expand crisis task force; suspend lower priority tasks; assess need to change WATCHCON. Maintain surveillance of other areas of responsibility.

\* There is no direct relationship between DEFCON/WATCHCON.

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Encl 3